

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-18 and 20-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16-18 and 25-26 are independent. Claim 41 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 17-18, 20-27 and 34-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by *Lazzouni et al.* (USP 5,652,412) in view of *Wolff et al.* (USP 6,201,903); rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lazzouni et al.* in view of *Wolff et al.* and further in view of *Yoshida* (USP 5,128,526); and rejected claims 28 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lazzouni et al.* in view of *Wolff et al.* and further in view of *Burges et al.* (USP 5,727,082). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 41 includes allowable subject matter.

While Applicant traverses the outstanding rejections, in an effort to advance prosecution and without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended all of the independent claims to include the allowable subject matter of claim 41. Based upon this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

**Conclusion**

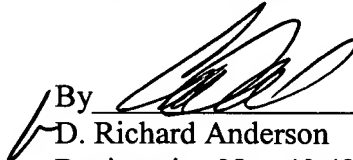
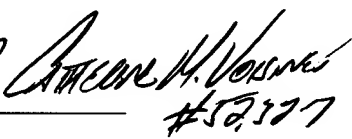
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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